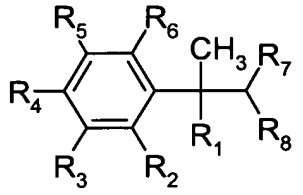
In the claims:

1. (currently amended): A liquid composition comprising

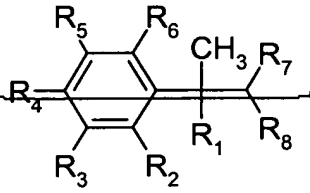
a) from 0.1 to 20% by weight of a dye having a solid state absorption band maximum in the spectral region from 300 to 800 nm,

b) from 0.5 to 99.9% by weight of a compound of formula  (I), wherein R_1 to R_8 are H, CH_3 or C_2H_5, with the proviso that the total number of carbon atoms in R_1 to R_8 is 0, 1 or 2, and

d) optionally from 0 to 99.4% by weight of one or more further components, all based on the weight of the solution.

2. (currently amended): A liquid composition acording to claim 1 comprising

a) from 0.1 to 20% by weight of a dye having a solid state absorption band maximum in the spectral region from 300 to 800 nm,

b) from 0.5 to 79.9% by weight of a compound of formula (I), ~~wherein~~  ~~(I), wherein~~ ~~R_1 to R_8 are H, CH_3 or C_2H_5, with the proviso that the total number of carbon atoms in R_1 to R_8 is 0, 1 or 2,~~

c) from 20% to 99.4% by weight of a linear, branched and/or cyclic non-aromatic hydrocarbon, and

d) optionally from 0 to 79.4% by weight of one or more further components, all based on the weight of the solution.

3. (currently amended): A composition of claim 1, ~~2 or 3,~~ wherein the total number of carbon atoms in R_1 to R_8 is 1 or 2.

4. (currently amended): A composition of claim 3, wherein the compound of formula (I) is one or more compounds selected from the group consisting of o-cymene, m-cymene, p-cymene, sec-butylbenzene, tert-butylbenzene, 2-pentylbenzene, isopent-2-ylbenzene ~~or~~ and tert-amylbenzene. ~~, or a mixture thereof, preferably sec-butylbenzene or tert-butylbenzene, most preferred tert-butylbenzene.~~

5. (currently amended): A composition of claim 1, ~~2, 3 or 4,~~ wherein the dye is a phthalocyanine. ~~, preferably a nonpolar phthalocyanine, most preferred a copper or palladium phthalocyanine.~~

6. (currently amended): A composition of ~~any~~ claim 2, ~~1 to 5,~~ wherein the hydrocarbon is alicyclic, and the weight ratio of hydrocarbon to compound of formula (I) is ~~preferably~~ from 4 : 1 to 99 : 1. ~~, most preferably from 17 : 1 to 76 : 1.~~

7. (currently amended): A composition of claim 6, wherein the hydrocarbon is selected from cycloalkanes substituted by one or more C_1-C_4alkyl groups and/or having a boiling point of ≤ 170 °C. ~~, preferably methylcyclohexane, 1,2-dimethyl cyclohexane or ethyl cyclohexane.~~

8. (currently amended): A process for manufacturing an optical recording medium comprising a substrate with a grooved side, a recording layer overlying the substrate on the grooved side, a reflective layer overlying the recording layer, and a protective layer overlying the reflective layer, which process comprises coating the grooved side of the substrate with the ~~wherein the recording layer is produced by coating a~~ liquid composition of ~~any~~ claim 1 ~~to 7.~~ to produce the recording layer.

9. (original): An optical recording medium comprising a substrate with a grooved side, a recording layer overlying the substrate on the grooved side, a reflective layer overlying the recording layer, and a protective layer overlying the reflective layer, characterized in that it has a groove filling value GF_V of from 360 to 600.

10. (currently amended): An optical recording medium of claim 9, wherein the groove in the substrate (d_{sub}) is from 200 to 225 nm deep and from 580 to 700 nm ~~, preferably from 620 to 680 nm~~ wide at half depth, the dye film average optical density is from 0.21 to 0.27 ~~, preferably from 0.21 to 0.25,~~ and the depth in dye layer d_{abs} lies in the range from 100 to 125 nm.

11. (currently amended): An optical recording medium comprising a substrate with a groove and a recording layer, characterised in that the groove filling grade GF_g is from 85 to 100. ~~, preferably from 90 to 100, most preferred from 95 to 100.~~

12. (new): A composition of claim 3, wherein the compound of formula (I) is sec-butylbenzene, tert-butylbenzene or a mixture thereof.

13. (new): A composition of claim 1, wherein the dye is a copper or palladium phthalocyanine.

14. (new): A composition of claim 6,wherein the weight ratio of hydrocarbon to compound of formula (I) is from 17: 1 to 76: 1.

15. (new): A composition of claim 6, wherein the hydrocarbon is methylcyclohexane, 1,2-dimethyl cyclohexane, ethyl cyclohexane or a mixture thereof.

16. (new): A process according to claim 8, wherein the grooved side of the substrate is coated with the liquid composition of claim 2 to produce the recording layer.

17. (new): A process according to claim 8, wherein the grooved side of the substrate is coated with the liquid composition of claim 4 to produce the recording layer.

18. (new): An optical recording medium of claim 9, wherein the groove in the substrate (d_{sub}) is from 200 to 225 nm deep and from 620 to 680 nm wide at half depth, the dye film average optical density is from 0.21 to 0.25 and the depth in dye layer d_{abs} lies in the range from 100 to 125 nm.

19. (new): An optical recording medium of claim 11, wherein the groove filling grade GF_g is from 90 to 100.

20. (new): An optical recording medium of claim 11, wherein the groove filling grade GF_g is from 95 to 100.